



Family and Domestic Violence

The Role of Local Governments Discussion Paper

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1. Executive Summary

Family and domestic violence is a complex and concerning issue in Australia with significant long-term impacts for victims. Family and domestic violence “is an ongoing pattern of behaviours intended to coerce, control or create fear¹” between family members or in current or past intimate partner relationships. Family and domestic violence can happen to anyone of all ages and of all backgrounds at any time, however it predominantly affects women and children. Gender inequality, gender norms and stereotypes and attitudes towards women are all recognised as key drivers of family and domestic violence. Family and domestic violence behaviours can involve physical violence, sexual assault, verbal or emotional abuse, controlling behaviour, stalking, financial abuse and sometimes elder abuse (abuse of older people). Family and domestic violence can contribute to and cause anxiety and depression, suicide and self-harm, early pregnancy loss, alcohol and drug use and homelessness.

WALGA received different requests from two of the 17 WALGA Zones to analyse the role of WA Local Governments in addressing family and domestic violence. The requests were received from the South West Country Zone in March 2019 and the East Metropolitan Zone in November 2019.

In March 2019 the South West Country Zone endorsed the following:

That:

1. The SWCZ request WALGA to begin to develop an advocacy position on family and domestic violence.
2. A sector working group is formed to guide the consultation process and a state wide forum be held to raise awareness of the issue within the sector
3. A formal request be made that Our Watch and other key stakeholders are invited to present to the sector.

In November 2019 the East Metropolitan Zone endorsed the following:

That WALGA:

1. Investigate the support currently being provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria in relation to the prevention of violence against women; and
2. Present a report to the WALGA East Metropolitan Zone on the outcome of the investigations and how WALGA can provide support and advice to the sector on how it can collectively work towards reducing family and domestic violence in the Western Australian community and for employees of Local Government in Western Australia.

This discussion paper was prepared in response to the Zones and provides a broad analysis of the initiatives currently being undertaken to address family and domestic violence, with discussion of the roles of all three levels of Government, relevant not for profit sector organisations, and comparison across States and Territories as well as Local Government

¹ Department of Communities (2020). Path to Safety: WA’s Strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020-2030. <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/2766/fdv-strategy.pdf>

Associations. The results from WALGA's Local Government survey collected between September 2019 and January 2020 regarding family and domestic violence has also been included in this paper.

Not in scope for this paper is the analysis of the legal and judicial system associated with family and domestic violence, the direct support services provided to help support victims (e.g. crisis accommodation, refuges) or the specific programs facilitated to change the behaviour of offenders. Also not in scope is the Commonwealth Government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse recommendations and responses which relate to child sex abuse occurring in institutional settings.

The Commonwealth Government provides leadership to the State and Territory Governments to address this issue through the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022](#), provides funding to administer services and administers the broader legislation *Family Law Act 1975 (Cwth)*. State and Territory Governments deliver localised strategies and plans to compliment the Commonwealth's National Plan. The States and Territories also provide services including policing and legal assistance, provision of funding and/or coordinate services administered by the non-government sector and by enacting governing legislation.

Historically Local Governments around Australia have not had a defined role and are not legislatively obligated to address family and domestic violence, except for Victorian Local Governments. The Commonwealth Government however recognises the role of Local Governments in the primary prevention of family and domestic violence outlined in the National Plan, as well as through the release of the [Prevention Toolkit for Local Government](#) which was piloted in five Local Governments across Australia, including the City of Mandurah. Some WA Local Governments with capacity are taking action by developing policies and delivering community initiatives targeted towards the primary prevention of family and domestic violence such as installing 'purple benches' to raise awareness of the issue in partnership with the [Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA](#). It is also acknowledged there are some Local Governments involved with the direct delivery of services (e.g. crisis accommodation, refuges) although this is not an expectation for all Local Government.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has provided a submission to the Commonwealth Government's [Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence](#). ALGA's submission advocates on the preferred option for more funding and support from the Commonwealth Government directly to Local Governments across Australia, particularly towards implementation of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government. As an alternative option ALGA is advocating for the Commonwealth Government to provide funding to employ a family and domestic violence position in each Local Government Association to support Local Governments across Australia.

Successive Victorian State Governments have ensured that Victoria is the leader in addressing family and domestic violence through policy development, reforms, and enabling

and supporting grassroots action. More than \$2.7 billion has been invested by the Victorian State Government since tabling a report in 2016 from the [Royal Commission into Family Violence](#). Victorian Local Governments are legislatively required to address family and domestic violence in their public health plans under the [Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008](#) (Vic) and will be expected to address gender equality by 31 March 2021 under the [Gender Equality Act 2020](#).

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is also a leader amongst the Local Government Associations, with a defined role to support Local Governments in their legislative requirements to address family and domestic violence as well as receiving funding from the Victorian State Government to employ staff. The MAV has adopted a policy statement, coordinates the [Local Government Preventing Violence against Women Network](#), delivers forums and workshops, and provides resources and support.

In December 2019 the Queensland State Government recognised the role of Local Governments in addressing family and domestic violence by [providing partial funding towards a dedicated position in the Local Government Association of Queensland](#). Meanwhile the Associations in New South Wales and South Australia have developed policy statements to guide advocacy efforts.

In comparison, in early 2019 the WA State Government released a consultation paper to collect feedback to guide the development of the State's 10 year strategy for reducing family and domestic violence. The consultation paper recognised the importance of coordinated and collaborative responses as best practice to ensure family and domestic violence is addressed holistically as possible. The only mention of Local Governments in the consultation paper was in respect to working with the RSPCA and animal havens to establish a program for victim's pets to be safely housed away from the perpetrator. Feedback on the consultation paper closed in March 2019. A reference group was then appointed to further guide the development of the Strategy which consisted of key State Government departments and the not-for-profit sector. WALGA was not initially invited to represent WA Local Government on this reference group during the development of the Strategy. In March 2020 a belated invitation for WALGA to join the reference group was received after the content of the Strategy had already been confirmed, limiting the opportunity for WALGA to comment. In July 2020 the WA State Government released a finalised [State Strategy](#) to address family and domestic violence, which acknowledged a role for Local Government. The release of the finalised Strategy omitted a formal consultation process on the draft Strategy which typically occurs in line with the [State Local Government Partnership Agreement](#). The lack of opportunity for Local Government and WALGA to provide comments on the State Strategy, demonstrates a lack of engagement and disconnect between the State Government and WA Local Governments on this particular issue.

WALGA's main role is to advocate rather than administer a specific program or network, as there are no specific funding commitments from the State Government to Local Governments and there is an absence of legislation compelling Local Government to

address the issue unlike in Victoria. The survey conducted by WALGA with 26 Local Government responses, supports the position that WALGA should strengthen advocacy efforts and this will include updating the outdated 2011 WALGA State Council endorsed policy position to align with current Commonwealth and State approaches and evidence.

To address the South West Country Zone request, WALGA invited Our Watch to present at the Local Government Mental Health Forum in November 2019. Our Watch was not able to provide a presentation at this Forum at the last minute however WALGA intends to host a future webinar with Our Watch or can incorporate family and domestic violence presentations as part of other events, such as through the Local Government Community Safety Network.

The East Metropolitan Zone additionally requested this paper investigate the actions that Local Governments can take or are taking for 'employees of Local Government in Western Australia' with regards to family and domestic violence. WA Local Government staff entitlements for family and domestic violence are variable, due to the majority of Local Governments operating in the Federal industrial relations system and the rest operating in the State industrial relations system. The Federal system provides a minimum entitlement for family and domestic violence leave to employees however there is no such minimum entitlement in the State system. WA Parliament is currently progressing the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 and once the Bill is passed it will result in Local Governments all moving onto the State industrial relations system. In the absence of there being no legislative minimum condition of employment addressing family and domestic violence leave in the State industrial relations system, WALGA encourages Local Governments to follow best practice.

To update the existing outdated 2011 WALGA policy position, this discussion paper proposes adopting the following recommendations:

1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments which have capacity can voluntarily play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.
2. That WALGA advocates to the State Government:
 - a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.
 - b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
 - c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.
 - d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
 - e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.

3. That WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.

In August 2020 this paper was provided to the South West Country Zone and the East Metropolitan Zone for consideration. The South West Country Zone endorsed the recommendations. The East Metropolitan Zone also endorsed the recommendations with an amendment to the first recommendation, removing the acknowledgment that Local Governments can ‘voluntarily’ address family and domestic violence if they have the ‘capacity’ to do so. The first recommendation was amended to:

1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.

All Local Governments were then provided an opportunity to review and provide comment on this discussion paper, with the feedback received being incorporated.

2. Introduction

Family and domestic violence is a complex and concerning issue in Australia with significant long-term impacts for victims. Family and domestic violence “is an ongoing pattern of behaviours intended to coerce, control or create fear²” between family members or in current or past intimate partner relationships. It can happen to anyone of all ages and of all backgrounds at any time, however it predominantly affects women and children. Family and domestic violence behaviours can involve physical violence, sexual assault, verbal or emotional abuse, controlling behaviour, stalking, financial abuse³ and sometimes elder abuse (abuse of older people). In 2015-2016 it is estimated the overall economic cost of violence against women and their children in Australia was \$26 billion⁴.

Promoting gender equity and respect for everyone is important to address family and domestic violence, particularly for women and children. Actions involving government, business and the community which are comprehensive and long term are required to ensure family and domestic violence is prevented and services are provided to support those experiencing it.

The Commonwealth Government provides leadership to the State and Territory Governments to address this issue, with agreement on actions through the newly established National Cabinet (formerly Council of the Australian Governments). The agreed actions are outlined in the Commonwealth’s ‘National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022’ (the National Plan). The Commonwealth also provides funding to administer support and frontline services, including legal assistance and social security, and administers the broader legislation *Family Law Act 1975 (Cwth)*, which only partially applies to Western Australia. State and Territory Governments deliver localised strategies and plans to compliment the Commonwealth’s National Plan. The States and Territories also provide services including policing and legal assistance, provision of funding and/or coordinate services administered by the non-government sector⁵ and by enacting governing legislation.

Historically Local Governments around Australia have not had a defined role and are not legislatively obligated to address family and domestic violence, except for Victorian Local Governments. The Commonwealth Government however recognises the role of Local Governments in the primary prevention of family and domestic violence outlined in the

² Department of Communities (2020). Path to Safety: WA’s Strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020-2030. <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/2766/fdv-strategy.pdf>

³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019). Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/b0037b2d-a651-4abf-9f7b-00a85e3de528/aihw-fdv3-FDSV-in-Australia-2019.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

⁴ KPMG (2016). The cost of violence against women and their children in Australia. https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2016/the_cost_of_violence_against_women_and_their_children_in_australia_-_summary_report_may_2016.pdf

⁵ Department of Social Services (2010). National plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-2022. https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2014/national_plan1.pdf

National Plan, as well as through the release of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government. Some WA Local Governments however with additional capacity are taking action by developing policies and delivering community initiatives targeted towards the primary prevention of family and domestic violence. It is also acknowledged there are some Local Governments involved with the direct delivery of services although this is not an expectation for all Local Government. These Local Governments currently taking action are questioning the role of all WA Local Governments to address family and domestic violence not only in the community, but also through the policies and practices being implemented in the workplaces to assist Local Government employees. These Local Governments are also seeking State Government funding support and calling on advocacy from WALGA.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based group representing and supporting the work and interests of 139 Local Governments in Western Australia. WALGA's Local Government members are grouped into 17 individual 'Zones' (12 regional and five metropolitan) who are responsible for voting through the elections of WALGA State Councillors, providing input into policy formulation and providing advice on various matters. Through each of the Zones, motions for WALGA to undertake specific actions can be endorsed. WALGA received requests from the South West Country Zone in March 2019 and the East Metropolitan Zone in November 2019 to analyse and address the issue of family and domestic violence.

In March 2019 the South West Country Zone endorsed the following:

That:

4. The SWCZ request WALGA to begin to develop an advocacy position on family and domestic violence.
5. A sector working group is formed to guide the consultation process and a state wide forum be held to raise awareness of the issue within the sector
6. A formal request be made that Our Watch and other key stakeholders are invited to present to the sector.

In November 2019 the East Metropolitan Zone endorsed the following:

That WALGA:

3. Investigate the support currently being provided by the Municipal Association of Victoria in relation to the prevention of violence against women; and
4. Present a report to the WALGA East Metropolitan Zone on the outcome of the investigations and how WALGA can provide support and advice to the sector on how it can collectively work towards reducing family and domestic violence in the Western Australian community and for employees of Local Government in Western Australia.

This paper will firstly outline the extent and nature of family and domestic violence in Australia, and within Western Australia, and outline the nationally adopted policy framework for addressing family and domestic violence.

To address the Zones requests, a broad overview of the initiatives currently being undertaken to address family and domestic violence in the community will be provided. This will include an exploration of the current roles, actions and relevant legislation of the:

- Commonwealth Government
- State and Territory Governments
- Local Government Associations
- Local Governments
- Not for profit sector

This broad overview will include a comparative analysis of the actions undertaken by State and Territory Governments across Australia and a comparison between the Local Government Associations including WALGA and the Municipal Association of Victoria. WALGA's analysis will include consideration of the Local Government survey results collected between September 2019 and January 2020 to highlight the actions and roles that WA Local Governments are undertaking to address family and domestic violence.

To address the request from the East Metropolitan Zone, the paper will also provide an analysis of the leave entitlement provisions being implemented in workplaces to assist Local Government employees in Western Australia.

Not in scope for this paper is an analysis of the legal and judicial system associated with family and domestic violence, the direct support services provided to help support victims (e.g. refuges) or the specific programs facilitated to change the behaviour of offenders. Also not in scope is the Commonwealth Government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse recommendations and responses which relate to child sex abuse occurring in institutional settings.

Through the consideration and analysis of various actions and initiatives being undertaken at the different levels of government, as well as feedback provided through WALGA's Local Government survey, a set of recommendations were formulated. In August 2020 this paper and recommendations was provided to both the South West Country Zone and the East Metropolitan Zone for consideration. Both of the Zones supported progressing the recommendations from this paper, with a minor amendment from the East Metropolitan Zone. In September 2020 the recommendations from the two Zones were provided to WALGA State Council's People and Place Policy Team for review, as per WALGA's internal approval processes. The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the progression of this issue with the intent to update WALGA's outdated 2011 policy position. All Local Governments were then provided an opportunity to review and provide comment on this discussion paper, with the feedback received being incorporated.

3. Extent and Nature of Family and Domestic Violence

While both men and women can be perpetrators of violence there is evidence that shows that the majority of the perpetrators of family and domestic violence are men, who commit

violence against women. While there is no single cause, gender inequality, gender norms and stereotypes and attitudes towards women are all recognised as key drivers of family and domestic violence^{6 7}. This includes:

- Condoning of violence against women
- Men’s control of decision-making and limits to women’s independence in public and private life
- Rigid gender roles and stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity
- Male peer relations that emphasise aggression and disrespect towards women⁸.

While gender inequality is recognised as the key driver, this doesn’t invalidate family and domestic violence experienced by men. Other contributing factors that can compound the severity and consequences of family and domestic violence include exposure to violence as a child, financial pressures, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues and social and economic exclusion.⁹

The most vulnerable groups include:

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • young women aged 18-34 • Aboriginal people • older people • people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people with a disability • LGBTIQ+ people • people living in rural and remote Australia • people from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas |
|--|--|

In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 32 times more likely to be hospitalised due to family violence related assaults than other Australian women. Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is not a part of traditional culture. Impacts such as intergenerational trauma, dispossession of land, broader colonialism and cumulative economic disadvantage are all factors to family and domestic violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people¹⁰.

Family and domestic violence can contribute to and cause anxiety and depression, suicide and self-harm, early pregnancy loss, alcohol and drug use and homelessness¹¹. In 2017-

⁶ Commonwealth Government Department of Social Services (2019). Fourth Action Plan.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2019/fourth_action-plan.pdf

⁷ Our Watch (2015). Facts and figures. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/Understanding-Violence/Facts-and-figures>

⁸ Our Watch (2015). Change the Story. <https://d2bb010tdzqag7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/21025429/Change-the-story-framework-prevent-violence-women-children-AA-new.pdf>

⁹ State Government of Victoria (2015). Royal Commission into Family Violence: Summary and Recommendations <http://rcfv.archive.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/MediaLibraries/RCFamilyViolence/Reports/Final/RCFV-Summary.pdf>

¹⁰ Our Watch (2018). Changing the Picture. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/changing-the-picture>

¹¹ Department of Communities (2020). Path to Safety: WA’s Strategy to reduce family and domestic violence 2020-2030. <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/2766/fdv-strategy.pdf>

2018 45% of those accessing specialist homelessness services had experienced family and domestic violence¹².

The complex nature of family and domestic violence has resulted in limitations with data analysis and understanding the true extent of the issue. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare acknowledges there are several gaps including:

- inconsistent identification, capturing and counting procedures between different data sets and jurisdictions
- limited information about vulnerable populations who come into contact with justice, health, welfare and other support services
- lack of data about pathways, impacts and outcomes for victims, perpetrators and their children.

In particular, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is working with States and Territories to improve the approaches to data collection in the police and justice system responses. Currently there is no standardised approach in police and justice data to identify family and domestic violence across all State and Territories, making it difficult to compare statistics¹³.

Despite the issues with data collection, it is reported that in Australia:

- 1 in 6 (17%, or 1.6 million) women and 1 in 16 (6.1%, or 548,000) men had experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or previous cohabiting partner since the age of 15
- 1 in 4 women (23% or 2.2 million) and 1 in 6 men (16% or 1.4 million) have experienced emotional abuse by a current or previous partner since the age of 15
- People living outside major cities were 1.4 times as likely to have experienced partner violence since the age of 15 as people living in major cities
- Aboriginal adults were 32 times as likely to be hospitalised for family violence as non-Aboriginal adults.
- 1 woman is killed every 9 days and 1 man is killed every 29 days by a partner.
- Domestic violence incidences in women aged 15 years and over largely contribute to poor mental health resulting in depression, anxiety, suicide, self-harm and drug or alcohol use¹⁴.

In Western Australia more specifically, some of the key statistics include:

- 1 in 5 Western Australia women reported experiencing partner violence since the age of 15.

¹² Department of Communities. (2019). All Paths Lead to Home: Western Australia's 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030 <https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/media/2156/homelessness-strategy-final.pdf>

¹³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019). Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/b0037b2d-a651-4abf-9f7b-00a85e3de528/aihw-fdv3-FDSV-in-Australia-2019.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

¹⁴ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2019). Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/b0037b2d-a651-4abf-9f7b-00a85e3de528/aihw-fdv3-FDSV-in-Australia-2019.pdf.aspx?inline=true>

- Western Australian Police data shows that in 2017–18 there were almost 3,400 breaches of family violence restraining orders issued in relation to female victims.
- In 2017–18, 700 women in Western Australia reported being victims of recent sexual assault, compared with 44 men.
- In 2016, 27.7 per cent of Western Australian females did not walk alone after dark because they felt unsafe, compared with only 3.8 per cent of men¹⁵.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic there has been increased concerns regarding the family and domestic violence occurrences reported, as everyone was forced into mandatory lockdown and socially isolated. Some of the concerning factors identified with the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- victims and offenders spending more time together in quarantine or lockdown
- increased social isolation and decreased social movement, which may restrict avenues for women to seek help
- increased situational stressors associated with domestic violence (e.g. financial stress and job insecurity)
- offenders feeling out of control due to situational factors and using violence and abuse as a means of creating a sense of control
- increased alcohol consumption.

A study conducted in May 2020 by the Australian Institute of Criminology involving an online survey of 15,000 Australian women aged over 18 years old found that for many women, the pandemic coincided with the onset or escalation of violence and abuse. Two-thirds of women who experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former cohabiting partner since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic said the violence had started or escalated in the three months prior to the survey¹⁶.

¹⁵ Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre (2019). 2019 Women's Report Card. <https://bcec.edu.au/publications/2019-womens-report-card/>

¹⁶ Australian Institute of Criminology (2020). The prevalence of domestic violence among women during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/sb/sb28>

4. Framework for Addressing Family and Domestic Violence

In Australia addressing family and domestic violence requires a holistic, collaborative and comprehensive approach, involving primary, secondary and tertiary level responses. The focus is predominantly on the implementation of ‘primary prevention’ actions which are enhanced by secondary and tertiary level actions (see Figure 1).

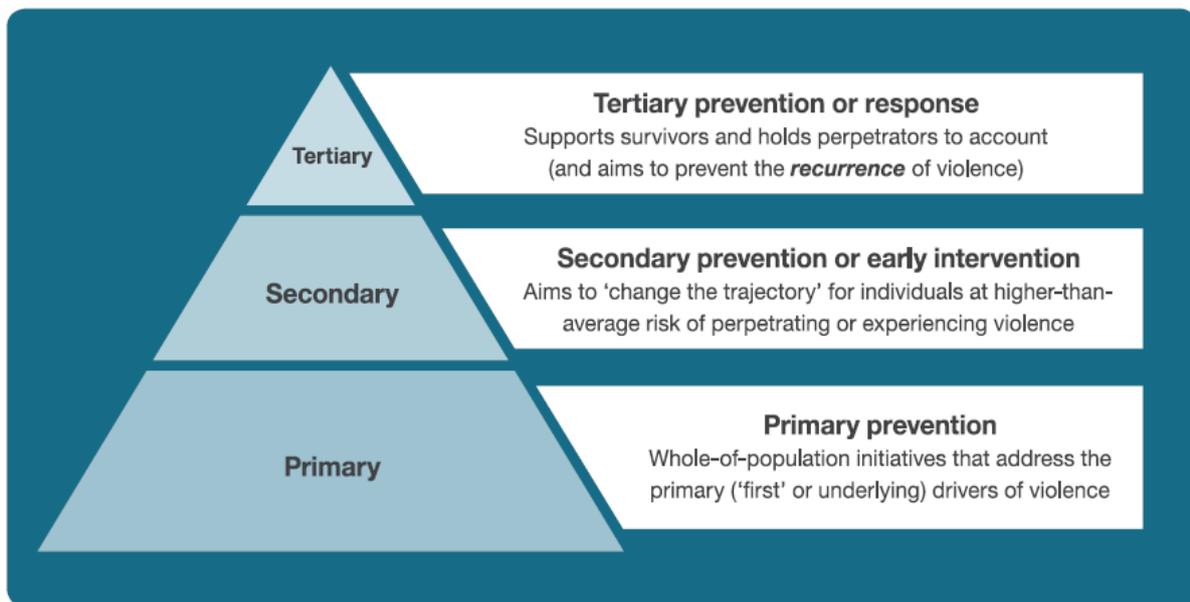


Figure 1. Framework from Our Watch (2019). Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and their Children in Australia

Primary prevention strategies are those that can be administered to prevent violence from happening by addressing the underlying factors. This includes community awareness campaigns, social marketing, school-based programs or the promotion of positive and equitable workplace cultures. All levels of Government, including Local Government’s which have the capacity, as well as the not-for-profit sector can implement primary prevention actions. Primary prevention actions are enhanced with secondary and tertiary level actions¹⁷. Secondary and tertiary level responses are mostly addressed by the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments through legislation, justice, direct services and programs. It is acknowledged however that there are some Local Governments which provide direct family and domestic violence services classified as ‘tertiary’ responses, such as counselling and refuges, but these responses are not typically expected of Local Governments.

¹⁷ Our Watch (2019). Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and their Children in Australia. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/resource/change-the-story-a-shared-framework-for-the-primary-prevention-of-violence-against-women-and-their-children-in-australia>

5. Commonwealth Government

Commonwealth-State Decisions for Family and Domestic Violence

All Commonwealth-State strategic and funding decisions related to family and domestic violence were formerly made through the Council of the Australian Governments (COAG) through the Women's Safety Council. The Council consisted of Commonwealth, State and Territory Women's Safety Ministers. Each jurisdiction was represented by a maximum of two Ministers with portfolio responsibility for women, families and/or prevention of family and domestic violence.

In October 2016 the first ever [COAG 2016 National Summit on Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children](#) was held in Brisbane. The Summit brought together 150 delegates from COAG, practitioners, academia, survivors, business and society to discuss family and domestic violence. The theme of the Summit was 'Connect. Act. Change' and there was acknowledgement that violence against women is not an issue governments can solve on their own and requires many innovative solutions.

On 29 May 2020 the [Prime Minister announced](#) that COAG would cease and that the States and Territories had agreed to continue the National Cabinet established to coordinate Australia's response to COVID-19 and also form a new National Federation Reform Council. It was also announced that the Women's Safety Taskforce would continue under the National Federation Reform Council. Further details on the structure of the new National Cabinet, the National Federation Reform Council and the Women's Safety Taskforce will be confirmed in the coming months.

Commonwealth Strategy and Funding

The Commonwealth Government developed the [National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 \(the National Plan\)](#) which was endorsed by the former Council of Australian Governments (COAG), of which all State and Territory Governments were members. The Plan's vision is 'Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities' with a target to significantly reduce violence against women and children between 2010 and 2022. The National Plan has been driven by a series of four three-year Action Plans with actions agreed to by State and Territories. Currently the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022 is being implemented, being endorsed in August 2019. Since 2010, the National Plan has delivered some key achievements including:

- The establishment in 2013 of an independent national research organisation to produce and distribute evidence to policy makers on family and domestic violence, known as '[Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety \(ANROWS\)](#)'.
- The establishment in 2013 of the national organisation known as '[Our Watch](#)' which aims to provide leadership to change the culture, behaviours and power imbalances which contribute to violence against women and children.

- An agreement by all State and Territory Governments to the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator Interventions, which standardises the standards and indicators for perpetrator interventions throughout Australia.
- The collection and analysis of family and domestic violence statistics has improved, particularly amongst marginalised groups leading to improvements in the understanding of the issue.

Other initiatives implemented prior to 2010 that have continued to be delivered through the National Plan include:

- [1800RESPECT](#) — a national telephone and online counselling and support service launched in 2010
- [DV-alert](#) — provides free nationally accredited domestic and family violence response training to frontline workers since 2007

Local Governments are recognised as a key stakeholder as part of a community-wide response in the National Plan under 'Strategy 1.2: Focus on primary prevention.' According to the plan it is the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments responsibility to enable Local Governments to become involved with primary prevention efforts including the promotion of equal and respectful relationships between women and men¹⁸.

The total investment towards the National Plan between 2010 and mid-2019 by the Commonwealth Government has been approximately \$840 million¹⁹. In March 2019 the Commonwealth Government announced \$328 million towards the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022²⁰. The commitment of \$328 million includes the investment in the following activities:

- \$68.3 million for prevention strategies to help eradicate domestic and family violence in our homes, workplaces, communities and clubs
- \$35.0 million in support and prevention strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- \$78.4 million to provide safe places for people impacted by domestic and family violence
- \$82.2 million to improve and build on frontline services to keep women and children safe
- \$64.0 million for 1800RESPECT, the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service²¹.

¹⁸ Department of Social Services (2010). National plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2010-2022. https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/08_2014/national_plan1.pdf

¹⁹ Department of Social Services (2019). Our Investment in Women's Safety.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/03_2019/our-investment-womens-safety-5-march-2019.pdf

²⁰ Department of Social Services (2019). Announcement of Commonwealth Contribution to the Fourth Action Plan. <https://www.dss.gov.au/women-programs-services-reducing-violence/announcement-of-commonwealth-contribution-to-the-fourth-action-plan>

²¹ Department of Social Services (2019). Our Investment in Women's Safety.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/03_2019/our-investment-womens-safety-5-march-2019.pdf

Additional Funding Support from the Commonwealth Government during COVID-19

On 29 March 2020, the Commonwealth Government announced it was providing \$150 million to support Australians experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding contributed to the programs under the National Plan including:

- Counselling support for families affected by, or at risk of experiencing, domestic and family violence including men's behaviour change programs which will provide a short, medium and longer term response to support men.
- 1800RESPECT, the national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling service, which already answers around 160,000 calls a year.
- Mensline Australia, the national counselling service for men that provides support for emotional health and relationship concerns for men affected by or considering using violence.
- Trafficked People Program to support particularly vulnerable cohorts such as victims of human trafficking, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices.
- Support programs for women and children experiencing violence to protect themselves to stay in their homes, or a home of their choice, when it is safe to do so.

Of the \$150 million available, it was announced that \$35 million would be provided to the States and Territories with \$3.1 million provided to the WA State Government²². Commonwealth Minister's Hon. Marise Payne and Hon Anne Ruston convened a COAG Women's Safety Council meeting to discuss with the States and Territories how to best deliver this funding to support local responses to this issue²³.

The Commonwealth Government announced a further \$10.2 million as part of the [2020/2021 budget](#) to build on previous commitments to keep women and children safe and ensuring access to justice by providing the Family and Federal Circuit Courts.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiries and Commissions

In 2014 the Commonwealth Government requested the Finance and Public Administration References Committee to conduct an inquiry on 'Domestic Violence in Australia' and a [final report](#) was produced in August 2015.

In June 2020 the Commonwealth Government announced a new [Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) which will inform the next National Plan. A new plan is required when the existing National Plan comes to an end in 2022.

²² State Government of Western Australia (2020). \$3 million strengthens pandemic response to violence in the home. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/3-million-dollars-strengthens-pandemic-response-to-violence-in-the-home.aspx>

²³ Prime Minister of Australia (2020). Media Release 20 March 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/11-billion-support-more-mental-health-medicare-and-domestic-violence-services-0>

Another relevant Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry was the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse](#) which happened between 2012 and 2017. This inquiry specifically focussed on child sex abuse happening in institutional settings, whereas family and domestic violence is much broader than this. The Commonwealth Government enacted the [National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018](#) announced the [National Redress Scheme](#) in 2019 in response to the Royal Commission. The WA State Government enacted the [National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse \(Commonwealth Powers\) Act 2018](#) to participate in the National Redress Scheme.

Commonwealth Resources

In 2017 the Commonwealth Department of Social Services formed a working group to develop a draft Local Government Family and Domestic Violence Toolkit which was an action from the [Third Action Plan](#) of the National Plan. The required action was to “co-design tools and resources with Local Governments to engage with business, sporting organisations and community groups to promote action against violence²⁴.” The working group consisted of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and State and Territory Local Government Associations, including WALGA.

The draft toolkit was piloted in five Local Governments across Australia, including:

- City of Charles Sturt, South Australia
- Latrobe City Council, Victoria
- Mackay Regional Council, Queensland
- City of Mandurah, Western Australia
- City of Parramatta Council, New South Wales.

The Commonwealth Government provided funding of \$150,000 to each of the five Local Governments to trial the toolkit for 12 months.

ANROWS was engaged to provide guidance to the five Local Governments using the toolkit to appropriately plan, implement and evaluate the effectiveness of actions that address family and domestic violence. Local Governments in the trial were also supported in developing case studies of their trial actions that contributed to the [final report produced by ANROWS released in June 2019](#).

At the end of 2019, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services provided the Local Government toolkit to the primary national violence prevention agency known as ‘Our Watch’ to revise based on the feedback received from the five Local Governments in the trial. In

²⁴ Department of Social Services (2016). Third Action Plan 2016-2019 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. <https://www.dss.gov.au/women/programs-services/reducing-violence/third-action-plan>

early 2020 'Our Watch' engaged Local Governments across Australia, including the City of Armadale and City of Mandurah to assist them in further refining the toolkit. In July 2020 'Our Watch' [released the toolkit](#) with the simplified name 'Prevention Toolkit for Local Government'. The toolkit acknowledges that Local Governments are the closest level of government to the community and have interactions with many different cohorts. Local Governments are therefore in a position to "[influence and drive social change to reduce violence against women through existing partnerships, networks and structures](#)".

National Organisation: Our Watch

[Our Watch](#) was established in 2013 to address a recommendation from the Commonwealth Government's 'National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022'. Our Watch is the primary national violence prevention agency which aims to drive nationwide change in the cultures, behaviours and power imbalances that lead to violence against women by working closely with members to implement its strategies and initiatives. All State and Territory Governments are members of Our Watch.

In November 2015 Our Watch released 'Change the story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia' (known as 'Change the Story') which was developed in partnership with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth), and ANROWS.

The framework identifies there are five essential and five supporting actions required to address factors that lead to family and domestic violence against women.

Essential actions include:

- Challenge condoning of violence against women.
- Promote women's independence and decision-making in public life and relationships.
- Foster positive personal identities and challenge gender stereotypes and roles.
- Strengthen positive, equal and respectful relations between and among women and men, girls and boys.
- Promote and normalise gender equality in public and private life.

Supporting actions include:

- Challenge the normalisation of violence as an expression of masculinity or male dominance.
- Prevent exposure to violence and support those affected to reduce its consequences.
- Address the intersections between social norms relating to alcohol and gender.
- Reduce backlash by engaging men and boys in gender equality, building relationship skills and social connections.
- Promote broader social equality and address structural discrimination and disadvantage.

In May 2019 Our Watch released an interim review report '[Change the Story Three Years On](#)'. The report provides an interim evaluation of the response to the framework by policy makers²⁵. The review undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers indicated that the Changing the Story framework has made a 'significant contribution' with regards to 'unifying the conversation' and establishing 'common language' with regards to the primary prevention of family and domestic violence. It noted that there was 'widespread stakeholder recognition that the work undertaken by Our Watch is a hugely important first step'²⁶.

6. State and Territory Governments

The following analysis includes the approach to family and domestic violence taken from the State Governments of Western Australia and Victoria, followed by comparison with other States and Territories in section 6.3 and further information in Appendix 1.

6.1 Western Australian State Government

The WA State Government has had an increased focus on addressing family and domestic violence within Western Australia, with legislative amendments and increased strategic direction being key priorities.

WA State Legislation

Some of key legislation that applies to family and domestic violence in WA is reflected in Table 1.

Table 1. WA Family and Domestic Violence Legislation

| Legislation | What it covers |
|---|---|
| <i>Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913</i> | Legislation that governs criminal offences in Western Australia, inclusive of family and domestic violence. |
| <i>Sentencing Act 1995</i> | Legislation that guides the type of sentencing chosen depending on the offence – including imprisonment, fines and community service. |
| <i>Sentence Administration Act 2003</i> | Legislation that is to be read alongside the <i>Sentencing Act 1995</i> . Covers parole, released orders post-sentence supervision and community corrections centres. |

²⁵ Our Watch (2019). National Primary Prevention Framework. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/What-We-Do/National-Primary-Prevention-Framework>

²⁶ Our Watch (2019). 'Change the Story' Three Years On. <https://www.ourwatch.org.au/getmedia/5625d7f5-40de-40d8-a3f7-d3b9147df909/OW005-Change-the-Story-Three-Years-On-WEB-AA-2.pdf.aspx>

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Bail Act 1982</i> | Legislation that covers bail undertakings and conditions. |
| <i>Restraining Orders Act 1997</i> | Legislation that governs the issuing of restraining orders including Family Violence Restraining Order (FVRO). This includes the relation to the <i>Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Act 2017</i> . |
| <i>Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Act 2017</i> | Legislation that covers Western Australian acknowledgement of a national recognition scheme for domestic violence orders. |
| <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> | Legislation that governs unmarried people who have disagreements about children, property and de facto maintenance. |

In June 2020 the [WA State Parliament passed the Family Violence Legislation Reform Bill 2019](#). The Bill amends nine separate pieces of legislation across six separate Ministerial portfolios, and demonstrates a cross-Government commitment to tackling family and domestic violence. The Bill was introduced to address the recommendations from the 2014 [Law Reform Commission's Report into Family Violence](#).

WA State Strategy, Funding and Actions

In the 2019-2020 WA State Budget, the State Government allocated \$30.8 million for a number of initiatives to address family and domestic violence. Some of the key budget initiatives included:

- \$15.5 million for an electronic monitoring trial to monitor high-risk domestic violence offenders
- \$11.7 million to establish two new Family and Domestic Violence One Stop Hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie to make it easier for domestic violence victims to access services
- \$2.1 million to deliver training to frontline police officers and to develop a family violence Code of Practice
- \$1.1 million of continued funding for the Kimberley Family Violence Service
- \$415,000 of continued funding for the Pets in Crisis program²⁷.

In early 2019 the Department of Communities (WA) released a consultation paper to collect feedback to guide the development of the State's 10 year strategy for reducing family and domestic violence. The consultation paper recognised the importance of coordinated and collaborative responses as best practice to ensure family and domestic violence is addressed holistically as possible. The only mention of Local Governments in the consultation paper was in respect to working with the RSPCA and animal havens to establish a program for victim's pets to be safely housed away from the perpetrator.

²⁷ State Government of Western Australia (2019). \$30.9 million boost to tackle family and domestic violence. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/04/30-point-9-million-dollar-boost-to-tackle-family-and-domestic-violence.aspx>

Feedback on the consultation paper closed in March 2019. The Department then appointed a reference group to further guide the development of the Strategy which consisted of key State Government departments and the not-for-profit sector. WALGA was not initially invited to represent WA Local Government on this reference group during the development of the Strategy. In March 2020 a belated invitation for WALGA to join the reference group was received after the content of the Strategy had already been confirmed, limiting the opportunity for WALGA to comment.

On 22 July 2020 the WA State Government released the [Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 - 2030](#), acknowledging a role for Local Government in recognition of Local Governments existing relationship with their local communities. The release of the finalised Strategy omitted a formal consultation process on the draft Strategy which typically occurs in line with the [State Local Government Partnership Agreement](#). The lack of opportunity for Local Government and WALGA to provide comments on the State Strategy, demonstrates a lack of engagement and disconnect between the State Government and WA Local Governments on this particular issue. The Department of Communities however anticipates to work closely with WALGA to ensure that Local Governments can be appropriately engaged moving forwards. The Strategy is supported by three action plans that set out what needs to be done to achieve the long-term vision of all Western Australian's living free from family and domestic violence. The [First Action Plan](#) will run from July 2020 – June 2022, with an initial focus on actions to address significant impact of COVID-19 on family and domestic violence in Western Australia.

The WA State Government, through the Department of Communities, also coordinates and provides support to [District Leadership Groups](#) (DLG's) to develop and lead collaborative based responses to achieve local outcomes on various issues, including family and domestic violence. Not all DLG's focus on family and domestic violence issues however, as each DLG determines their own local priority issues and opportunities. Membership of the DLG's include representatives from State and Commonwealth governments, Local Government, the community services sector, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and industry²⁸. There are eight regional and eight metropolitan DLG's. Of these, there are seven DLG's which have identified family and domestic violence as a priority:

- Midland
- Western Metro (Mirrabooka)
- North West Metro (Joondalup)
- Wheatbelt
- Great Southern
- East Kimberley
- West Kimberley

²⁸ Department of Communities. (2019). District Leadership Groups
<https://www.communities.wa.gov.au/projects/district-leadership-groups/>

State Awareness Campaign – 16 Days in WA

Since 2016 the WA State Government, through the Department of Communities, has coordinated the [16 Days in WA – Stop Violence Against Women campaign](#) which encourages change to stop violence against women. The annual campaign takes place each year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to 10 December, which is Human Rights Day. The campaign draws inspiration from the global movement for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence to drive a change in culture, behaviour and attitudes that lead to violence against women and their children. The campaign encourages the community to be part of the movement for 16 days through educating, motivating, advocating in the community and standing up to stop violence against women.

WA State Response to Family and Domestic Violence attributed to COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the State Government, through the Department of Communities, established eight vulnerable cohort taskforces including one focused on family and domestic violence. This family and domestic violence taskforce was split into three succinct working areas to urgently decide and discuss priority policy actions to assist victims of family and domestic violence during the pandemic. The taskforce has been working on a range of measures including the allocation of Commonwealth funding, data collection and a multi-agency specialised program in the Kimberley. One of the main outcomes from the taskforce was the release of a video message supporting the victims of family and domestic violence. The [video](#) features the WA State Premier, Mark McGowan and WALGA's President, Mayor Tracey Roberts as well as those with lived experiences.

In March 2020 the WA State Government [announced that \\$159 million](#) was being prioritised from Lotterywest towards the newly established [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#). More than \$500,000 of this funding has already been [allocated towards organisations and not for profits](#) which address family and domestic violence.

In July 2020 an additional [\\$28.1 million was announced](#) by the WA State Government to address family and domestic violence as part of the COVID-19 WA Recovery Plan. This includes investment of:

- \$8.6 million to employ additional outreach workers to support women and children fleeing family and domestic violence
- \$6.7 million for family violence response teams that support victims following police call-outs
- \$4 million to expand the new Peel and Kwinana women's refuges
- \$123,000 for a program to support women who are residing at family and domestic violence refuges to gain employment skills, access career training or retraining and attend a range of workshops and short courses to support their pathways to employment

- \$2.6 million to extend the Kimberley Family Violence Service trial by two years
- \$1.1 million over two years for counselling, advocacy and support services.

Other Related WA State Strategies

The State Government also has released a number of relevant related strategies as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Relevant WA State Strategies

| | Link to family and domestic violence |
|--|---|
| 'Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality' | Underlying gender norms and attitudes contribute to family and domestic violence. The Plan makes the case for the broad community benefits of gender equality, including reducing violence against women. |
| Strategy to Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse) | Elder abuse is sometimes, but not all the time, classified in WA as a form of family and domestic violence. |
| A Safe Place: A Western Australian strategy to provide safe and stable accommodation and support to people experiencing mental health, alcohol and other drug issues 2020-2025 | The Strategy acknowledges the link between mental health, alcohol and drugs, homelessness and family and domestic violence. For example, youth homelessness due to family violence and family and domestic violence leads to mental health issues including anxiety and depressive disorders. |
| 10 Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030: All Paths Lead to a Home | Family and domestic violence is a key driver that leads to homelessness in WA. In 2017-2018 45% of those accessing specialist homelessness services had experienced family and domestic violence. |
| The WA Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022 | The Strategy acknowledges that alcohol and drugs is a factor to family and domestic violence. |
| Suicide Prevention 2020: Together We Can Save Lives | The Plan acknowledges that experience of family violence, sexual or physical abuse, or neglect is a risk factor for suicide. |

6.2 Victorian State Government

The Victorian State Government is considered to be a leader in addressing family and domestic violence through policy development, reforms, and enabling and supporting grassroots action. The Victorian State Government however recognised the significant gaps which resulted in devastating family violence-related deaths which led to Australia's first [Royal Commission into Family Violence](#) in February 2015 to investigate these gaps.

The final report was tabled in Parliament in March 2016 with 227 recommendations. Following the Royal Commission the Victorian State Government released the 10 year 'Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change' in 2017 which details the actions and

strategies required by the State Government to implement all of the 227 recommendations from the Royal Commission. Since the Royal Commission report has been released the Victorian State Government has invested more than \$2.7 billion over four years to implement more than half of the recommendations²⁹.

Recommendation 94 of the Royal Commission into Family Violence report recommended the State Government amend s.26 of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)* to enforce that Local Government include family and domestic violence as part of their public health plans or amend s.125 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)* to enforce that Local Governments include measures that address family and domestic violence in their plans.

In 2017 an amendment to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)* was made under s.26(2)(ba) which specifies that:

A municipal public health and wellbeing plan must (ba) specify measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the local community³⁰.

Furthermore in February 2020 the *Gender Equality Act 2020* in Victoria was enacted and applies to more than 300 organisations that have 50 or more employees including Local Governments. The Act will commence on 31 March 2021 to provide organisations enough time to understand, prepare for and meet their obligations. Organisations will be required to develop and implement a Gender Equality Action Plan every four years and will be required to report publicly every two years on the progress of the plan. Organisations will also need to undertake gender impact assessments, ensuring that policies, programs and services consider the different needs of Victorians of all genders³¹.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Victorian State Government has committed additional funding of \$40.2 million for crisis accommodation and also announced \$3 million over three years to continue the partnership with Our Watch.

6.3 Comparison of WA, Victoria and other State Government Approaches

Table 3 illustrates the actions and current funding that Western Australia has implemented in comparison to Victoria and some of the other Australian States. Successive Victorian State Governments have ensured that it continues to be the leader in addressing family and domestic violence amongst other Australian States. It should be noted that investment over

²⁹ State Government of Victoria (2019). Gender Equality Budget Statement: Victorian Budget 2019/2020. <https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/budgetfiles201920.budget.vic.gov.au/2019-20+State+Budget+-+Gender+Equality+Budget+Statement.pdf>

³⁰ State Government of Victoria. Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>

³¹ State Government of Victoria (2020). Gender Equality Act 2020. <https://www.vic.gov.au/gender-equality-bill>

the years by the Victorian State Government of more than \$2.7 billion to implement the Royal Commission recommendations, plus also the additional funding during the COVID-19 pandemic, surpasses funding provided in other jurisdictions. Victoria is also the only jurisdiction to adopt a legislative amendment that requires Local Governments to include family and domestic violence as part of their public health plans as well as passing the gender equality legislation that requires Local Governments to address gender equality. Excluding Victoria however, it appears that Western Australia’s approach is consistent with other State Governments. Refer to Appendix 1 for further details on New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

Table 3. Comparison of approaches between State and Territory Governments

| | Parliamentary Inquiry | Legislatively required by Local Governments | State Strategy | Funding 2019/20 & additional COVID-19 packages (excl. Commonwealth) |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Western Australia | <p>2014 Law Reform Commission of WA report 'Enhancing Family and Domestic Violence Laws'.</p> <p>2015 Ombudsman WA report 'Investigation into issues associated with violence restraining orders and their relationship with family and domestic violence fatalities'.</p> <p>2015 Community Development and Justice Standing Committee A measure of trust: How WA Police evaluates the effectiveness of its response to family and domestic violence.</p> | No | <p>Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 – 2030.</p> <p>Other supporting strategies on homelessness, elder abuse and gender equality have been released.</p> | <p>Approx. \$30.8million announced 2019/20 Budget.</p> <p>Lotterywest COVID-19 Relief Fund</p> <p>Additional \$28.1 million announced July 2020.</p> |
| Victoria | 2016 report ' Royal Commission into Family Violence ' with 227 recommendations | Yes under the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> and <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> | Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change | <p>\$185 million announced in 2019/20 budget.</p> <p>Additional COVID-19 \$40.2 million package for crisis accommodation and specialist services for people suffering or at risk of family violence announced April 2020.</p> |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|----|---|--|
| | | | | Additional \$3 million over 3 years to continue partnership with Our Watch. |
| South Australia | 2015 report ‘Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence in South Australia’ with 35 recommendations | No | Committed to Safety: A framework for addressing domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia | Additional COVID-19 \$2.4 million announced April 2020. Additional COVID-19 \$600,000 announced for Break the Cycle campaign in June 2020. Another additional \$600,000 announced June 2020. |
| New South Wales | 2012 report ‘Domestic Violence Trends and Issues in NSW’ with 89 recommendations NSW Law Reform Commission’s ‘Consent in relation to sexual offences: Draft proposals’ | No | NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017-2021 NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children - August 2016 | \$12.8 million announced to boost frontline services during COVID-19. |
| Queensland | 2015 report ‘Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland’ with 140 recommendations | No | 10-year Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–26 | \$1.5 million over two years announced in 2019-20 budget. Additional COVID-19 \$5.5 million announced April 2020. Another additional \$2 million announced in May 2020 after virtual Summit was held. |
| Tasmania | No | No | Safe Homes Families Communities: Tasmania’s Action Plan for Family and Sexual Violence 2019-2022 Health and Wellbeing for Women Action Plan (the Action Plan) 2020-23 | \$0.5 million allocated in 2019/20 budget for Family and Sexual Violence Plan. Plus \$2 million allocated for Women’s Health Package. Additional COVID-19 \$2.7 million for family and sexual violence – part of Social and Economic Support package. |
| Northern Territory | 2018 report Inquiry into the Domestic and Family Violence Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2017 | No | 10-year Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028 | Announced February 2019 - \$22 million will be invested in domestic violence prevention, perpetrator intervention programs, and safety and recovery services for victims. |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Additional COVID-19 \$3 million announced May 2020. |
|--|--|--|--|---|

7. Local Government Associations

The role of Local Government Associations across Australia to assist and provide leadership to their Local Governments, is largely influenced by the needs of their respective members together with the current State Government’s policy priorities and funding allocations. The Australian Local Government Association advocates directly to the Commonwealth Government on behalf of all Local Governments across Australia.

The following overview analyses the actions from the ALGA, WALGA and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). A comparison table and discussion between WALGA and other State Associations is provided in section 7.4 and more detail regarding the actions from each Local Government Association is provided in Appendix 2.

7.1 Australia Local Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the voice of Local Government in Australia, representing 537 councils across the nation. ALGA’s President represents Local Government as a member of several ministerial councils. In structure, ALGA is a federation of State and Territory Local Government Associations.

ALGA has in the past provided updates to the former COAG on Local Government domestic violence initiatives but is not a member of the current Women’s Safety Taskforce.

ALGA has provided a submission to the Commonwealth Government’s [Inquiry into Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence](#). ALGA’s submission highlights that as the closest level of government to the community, Local Governments are uniquely placed to influence and drive social change to reduce family and domestic violence through existing partnerships, networks and structures. ALGA’s submission advocates on the preferred option for more funding and support from the Commonwealth Government directly to Local Governments across Australia. In particular resourcing is required for the implementation of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Governments, which was initiated by the Commonwealth Government and released by Our Watch. As an alternative option ALGA is advocating for the Commonwealth Government to provide funding to employ a family and domestic violence position in each Local Government Association to support Local Governments, based on the funding by the respective State Governments to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Local Government Association of Queensland to employ an officer. The Local Government Association of South Australia has also provided a submission to this Inquiry in support of ALGA’s recommendations.

7.2 WALGA

Historically WALGA's involvement with family and domestic violence has been primarily driven by resource availability and in response to Commonwealth and State Government initiatives, strategies and plans. In addition to human resource availability, WALGA's involvement has been driven by the absence of legislative requirements for Local Governments to address family and domestic violence, the limited engagement by the WA State Government as well as not having direct requests to investigate this issue from Local Governments through the WALGA Zones.

Previously in 2011 WALGA provided a submission to the State Government on a former State Strategy known as 'Enough is Enough Interpersonal Violence Prevention Strategy', of which domestic violence was included. WALGA State Council endorsed the submission in December 2011 along with the following outdated position (RESOLUTION 144.7/2011).

That:

1. State Council endorse the key principles of the Crime Prevention Council's Enough is Enough Interpersonal Violence Prevention Strategy, being:

- To develop a culture which reinforces that violence is unacceptable
- That social change can be effected through influencing the attitudes and behaviour of the wider community
- That key influencers such as parents, employers and community leaders require support in developing a community 'appetite' for change
- That physical, cultural and social environments need support to discourage abuse of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) related violence; and
- That social change requires a broad range of complementary strategies implemented by a wide range of stakeholders.

2. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Crime Prevention Council and the Local Government sector on the Enough is Enough Interpersonal Violence Prevention Strategy be presented to State Council in March 2012.

The existing policy position is considered to be outdated due to the following issues:

- The existing policy position has endorsed principles from a Strategy that is no longer in operation.
- The existing policy position does not acknowledge the seriousness or prevalence of the family and domestic violence.
- The existing policy position does not reflect the current nationally accepted primary drivers of family and domestic violence, which focus on gender inequality and gender norms.
- The existing policy position does not highlight Local Government's role to address family and domestic violence.
- The existing policy position is aligned with crime prevention and community safety, rather than recognising that it is a broader issue.

Since March 2018, WALGA has been requested to represent the sector on a variety of family and domestic violence related topics. In 2018 WALGA sat on a national committee to guide the development of the Commonwealth Government, Department of Social Services, draft Prevention Toolkit for Local Government. The toolkit was later trialled in across five Local Governments, including the City of Mandurah. WALGA has also gathered feedback from Local Governments and prepared advocacy submissions to the Commonwealth Government and State Government on related family and domestic violence issues demonstrated in Table 4.

Table 4. WALGA Advocacy Submissions

| Government Agency | Strategy/ Plan/ Policy | State Council Endorsement |
|---|--|---|
| Commonwealth Government | National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians (Elder Abuse) 2019–2023 | Submission endorsed September 2018 RESOLUTION 107.6/2018 |
| State Government, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries | 'Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: A Local Government Response to the Western Australian State Government Child Safety Implementation Plan' | Submission endorsed December 2018 RESOLUTION 141.7.2018 |
| State Government, Department of Communities | WA Strategy Respond to the Abuse of Older People (Elder Abuse) 2019–2029 | Submission endorsed September 2019 RESOLUTION 95.6/2019 |
| State Government, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries | Participation in the State's National Redress Scheme | Position endorsed July 2019 RESOLUTION 66.5./2019 |

In February 2019 WALGA partnered with the organisation Injury Matters (Know Injury program) to deliver a [webinar](#) to Local Governments to provide guidance on the role that Local Governments may consider taking to address family and domestic violence in their local community. This webinar followed tragic community events in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (Osmington), City of Swan (Ellenbrook) and the City of Bayswater (Bedford) involving family and domestic violence and mental health issues in 2018,³² as well as multiple community youth suicides in the City of Karratha. The webinar included a case study provided by the City of Mandurah.

³² ABC News (2018). Bedford Mass Murders Throw Spotlight on Domestic Violence Crisis. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-12/bedford-mass-murders-throw-spotlight-on-domestic-violence-crisis/10232862>

WALGA acknowledges the South West Country Zone request to host a forum on family and domestic violence, particularly inviting Our Watch to make a presentation. In response to this request, in November 2019 WALGA hosted a Local Government Mental Health Forum which also covered alcohol and drugs and family and domestic violence. WALGA invited the Chief Executive Officer of Our Watch to make a presentation in person, however at the last minute they were not able to provide a presentation at this Forum. WALGA intends to host a future webinar with Our Watch to address this request or can incorporate this request as part of a future Local Government Community Safety Network event.

7.3 Municipal Association of Victoria

In mid-2010 the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) established the [Local Government Preventing Violence against Women Network](#) (LG PVAW Network). The establishment of the LG PVAW Network was requested from Local Government officers to share information, establish partnerships and provide support. The Network is an inclusive group of Local Government representatives and key stakeholders (e.g. women's health services, family violence peak bodies, government representatives), who work collaboratively to promote and progress the work of leading communities in the prevention of violence against women. In 2011 the Victorian State Government initially funded MAV to deliver the Prevention of Violence against Women Project for an initial two years, including the continuation of coordinating the LG PVAW Network. The MAV Prevention of Violence against Women Project includes:

- resourcing quarterly meetings of the LG PVAW Network
- a gender equity section of the MAV website and the 'Prevention of Violence Against Women and Promotion of Gender Equity' monthly e-newsletter
- hosting relevant professional development forums for councils
- establishment of a leadership group consisting of senior level champions who have committed to progress leadership in the prevention of violence against women in the local government sector.

In 2012 the State Council of MAV endorsed a [leadership statement](#)³³ (position statement) on family and domestic violence. The vision of this leadership statement is that "Victorian local government shares the vision set out in the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children; Australian women and their children live free from violence in safe communities". The MAV commits to provide leadership in preventing violence against women through:

- Advocacy to other levels of government to increase the resources in clarifying, enhancing and implementing legislation and influencing social norms for more equal relationships between men and women.

³³ Municipal Association of Victoria. (2012) Promoting Gender Equity: Prevention of Violence Against Women Leadership Statement. http://www.mav.asn.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/7240/Prevention-of-violence-against-women-leadership-statement.pdf

- Building capacity within this organisation and the sector to understand the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of the problem and the roles that local government can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships.
- Promoting local government's role, achievements and best practice in preventing violence against women to the sector and other levels of government. In addition, championing 'whole of community' approaches to raising awareness and responding to opportunities to promote respectful relationships.
- Supporting Local Governments in their community leadership roles by facilitating the provision of resources including advice, expertise, networks and policy support.

Since 2013 the State Government has provided year-to-year funding to MAV of approximately \$150,000 which includes compensation of up to two 0.9 FTE positions to deliver the Prevention of Violence against Women Project.

Every two years MAV gathers feedback from Local Governments through a Gender Equality and Preventing Violence against Women Survey. The survey was conducted in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. The more recent MAV survey encompasses key evaluation criteria required for Local Governments legislative reporting obligations under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic) on measures to prevent family violence and respond to the needs of victims of family violence in the local community.

7.4 Comparison of Local Government Association Responses

Table 5 illustrates the actions that WALGA has implemented in comparison to the other Local Government Associations.

The Municipal Association of Victoria has implemented the most actions to assist Local Governments to address family and domestic violence, supported by the State legislation and funding from the State Government. This has included a policy position, a specific domestic violence network, domestic violence focused events/ campaigns, resources as well as having State Government funded positions in the Association.

While there is no legislative requirement in Queensland for Local Governments to address family and domestic violence, the Queensland State Government has provided two thirds funding for twelve months for a designated domestic violence position in the Local Government Association of Queensland to assist Local Governments. This position has already initiated actions including developing networks and partnerships, establishing training, and initiating campaigns.

While neither the Local Government Associations in New South Wales or South Australia have designated State funded domestic violence positions in their Associations, they have both endorsed policy positions to confirm their stance on family and domestic violence.

Table 5. Comparison of actions between Local Government Associations

| | Legislatively required by Local Governments | Local Gov Assoc. Policy Position | Local Gov Network/ Committee | Events, campaigns focused on FDV | Resources e.g. website, guides, fact sheet | Funded positions within Ass. to assist Local Gov |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| WALGA | No | Yes, but outdated | No | Depends on capacity, previously ran a webinar | Yes, webpage and updates through monthly Community and Place News | No |
| Municipal Assoc. of Vic | Yes under the <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> and <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> | Yes, available here | Yes | Yes | Yes, newsletter, webpage | Yes |
| Local Gov. Assoc. of SA | No | Yes, available in the Policy Manual here | No | No | Yes, fact sheets | No |
| Local Gov. NSW | No | Yes, available in the Policy Platform here | Yes | Yes | Yes, newsletter, webpage, training currently in development | No |
| Local Gov. Assoc. of Qld | No | No | Yes | Yes, awareness campaigns | Yes, newsletter, webpage, training | Yes |
| Local Gov. Association of Tasmania | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| Local Gov. Assoc. of NT | No | - | - | - | - | No |

Refer to Appendix 2 for more details on the actions from the Associations in New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and Northern Territory.

8. Local Governments

In section 4 of this discussion paper, the national accepted framework for addressing family and domestic violence was presented. It was acknowledged that the role of Local Governments, which have the capacity and necessary resources, is in the primary prevention sphere. These strategies focus on actions that can be administered to prevent violence from happening by addressing the underlying factors.

8.1 WA Local Government Response

Western Australian Local Governments functions and responsibilities are administered under the *Local Government Act 1995*. WA Local Governments are legislatively required to adopt a Strategic Community Plan and a Corporate Business Plan, in accordance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

In addition there a number of other pieces of WA legislation which instruct Local Governments to undertake particular roles and functions. Of most relevance to family and domestic violence, is the requirement for Local Governments to develop local public health plans under the *Public Health Act 2016*. This piece of legislation omits the requirement to include family and domestic violence as part of public health planning, unlike the stipulation in the Victorian legislation. Despite there being no WA legislative requirement, some WA Local Governments which have workforce capacity have recognised that family and domestic violence is an issue for their local community. This has led these Local Governments to identify actions within their community safety plans, forge partnerships with local services or organisations to deliver awareness campaigns and/or advocating to the State Government for more targeted services.

Survey of WA Local Governments

WALGA surveyed WA Local Governments between September 2019 and January 2020 to determine the actions and roles they are playing to address the issue. A total of 26 Local Governments participated in the survey which represented 19% of WALGA's 139 Local Government members (see Appendix 3 for a list of Local Governments which responded).

The key findings and analysis from the survey is as follows:

Local Government's strategies, plans or policies that addresses family and domestic violence in the community

Only three (12%) Local Government survey respondents indicated that they have a strategy, plan or policy that addresses family and domestic violence in their local community. Four (15%) Local Government respondents indicated they are developing a strategy, plan or policy. In comparison to the survey undertaken by MAV, there were 72% of Local

Governments which have implemented a plan to address the issue, however this is influenced by legislative obligations.

The Local Governments which indicated in the survey they have a relevant strategy, plan or policy are provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Relevant Local Government Plans, Strategy, Policy

| Local Government | Name of strategy, plan or policy | Relevant action/ objective |
|----------------------|--|---|
| City of Albany | Safer Albany Plan 2020-2023 | Promote gender equality to address underlying cause of family and domestic violence. |
| City of Mandurah | Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2017-2022 | Lobby/Encourage and/or Advocate for local services to address homelessness, drugs and alcohol and mental health and domestic violence issues in Mandurah. |
| Town of Port Hedland | Draft Community Safety Plan | <p>Activate a collective response to implement a Relationship and Sexuality Education strategy with existing working groups with a focus on train the trainer programming to build community skills.</p> <p>With a particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent and boundaries • Healthy/ respectful relationship and communication skills • Personal health and hygiene. <p>Support and facilitate the development of a safe space for Men i.e. Men's Shed or Breathing Space House.</p> |

Furthermore a desktop analysis of community safety and crime prevention plans from Local Governments which did not participate in the WALGA survey, indicated an absence of actions addressing family and domestic violence. Although the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale did not participate in the WALGA survey, the Shire has included an action in their [2020-2022 plan](#) to “develop strategies to work towards decreasing the incidence and impact of family violence within the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale.”

Current actions Local Governments are currently implementing to address family and domestic violence

The majority of respondents to the survey indicated they were implementing primary prevention strategies to raise awareness and address the primary underlying drivers to violence. This includes:

- Implementing an internal HR policy for Local Government employees
- Forming partnerships with key organisations and services to increase the awareness of family and domestic violence (e.g. local campaigns, installing [purple benches](#))

- Providing details for family and domestic violence services/contacts on Local Government website and/or through a service directory
- Supporting a local independent body to provide support services or to provide legal advice – this could be through partnerships with the service and provision of funds

Outside of the primary prevention sphere, it is acknowledged that there are some Local Governments which provide direct family and domestic violence services (counselling, refuge) such as the City of Stirling's Women's Centre. These are classified as 'tertiary' responses and are not typically expected of Local Governments.

There were Local Governments respondents which are not currently taking any action to address family and domestic violence as they do not believe it is a Local Government responsibility and/or do not have the capacity to address the issue. Many of these respondents were from small regional Local Governments.

The following examples demonstrate the primary prevention strategies which some Local Governments, which have the capacity, are implementing to address family and domestic violence.

Example 1 - Purple Bench Project

The Purple Bench project originated in 2015 from Nova Scotia, Canada and involves the installation of purple benches in public spaces to honour the memory of family and domestic violence victims. The international initiative was called Barb's Benches, with the original bench installed in Nova Scotia three years ago, marking the 25-year anniversary of the murder of Barb Baillie by her husband. Purple was chosen as it is associated worldwide as the colour for the domestic violence awareness movement.

On 7 March 2018 the [Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA](#) unveiled the installation of the first Purple Bench near [Fremantle Town Hall in the City of Fremantle](#). Throughout 2018 and 2019 the Women's Council partnered closely with Local Governments to unveil more Purple Benches in public places across WA. The benches included helpline numbers for people experiencing family and domestic violence³⁴. Since March 2018 more than 83 benches have been unveiled with 14 currently underway. The Women's Council has partnered with Linkwest to support Community Resource Centres and Neighbourhood Centres in regional towns to launch a Purple Bench.

The photo below displays the message and helpline numbers on the purple bench in the City of South Perth.

³⁴ Women's Council Domestic and Family Violence Services WA (2019). Annual Report 2018/2019. <https://www.womenscouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/WCDFVS-AR2018-19.pdf>



Example 2 - City of Swan and the Midland March that Matters

[The Midland March that Matters](#) began more than six years ago and is organised by a committee which includes the City of Swan. The annual march takes place each year to raise awareness of family and domestic violence that brings together a range of stakeholders including the WA Police Force and members of the community.

Hundreds of people attended the 2019 March which paraded along The Crescent to Great Eastern Highway before congregating at Juniper Gardens to hear from guest speakers stories and experiences of family and domestic violence.

The City of Swan joining in partnership with other stakeholders to host this event demonstrates how Local Governments can form positive partnerships to address family and domestic violence. Other stakeholders involved include representatives from Relationships Australia WA, Midland Women's Health Care Place, Centrecare, Koolkuna, Indigo Junction, WA Police, Rise Network, Department of Communities, MIDLAS, Essential Personnel and community members.

Example 3 - City of Greater-Geraldton and the Community, Respect and Equality Agreement

Launched in April 2019, the [Community, Respect and Equality \(CRE\) agreement](#) is for organisations and businesses in Geraldton to collectively say that #ViolenceIsNEVEROk. Any organisation, business, sporting club or association in Geraldton can be involved. There are currently 29 organisations who are currently signed onto the Agreement in Geraldton, including the City of Greater-Geraldton.

Based on the Our Watch 'Change the Story' shared framework, the CRE Project seeks to make Geraldton a cohesive community where:

- Violence in all forms is unacceptable
- Organisations are non-discriminatory and gender equitable
- Where relationships are equal, healthy and respectful
- The prevalence of family violence is reduced

This will be achieved through:

- Promotion of non-violent and non-discriminatory attitudes and social norms
- Education of what constitutes family violence

- Development of safe, inclusive and gender-equitable workplaces, community and sporting organisations
- Promotion of healthy and respectful relationships by facilitating learning and awareness opportunities

Example 4 - City of Mandurah and ‘Peel Says Not to Violence’

In November 2019 the City of Mandurah [signed a pledge](#) to join the ‘[Peel Says No to Violence](#)’ alliance. Peel Says No to Violence is a community project to help raise awareness, understanding and take action to prevent family and domestic violence in the Peel region. A number of local community groups and small businesses signed the pledge, demonstrating that everyone has a role to play in ending family violence.

As part of their pledge, the City of Mandurah has committed to the following actions:

- Participate in prevention of Family Domestic Violence and gender equality awareness event annually
- Staff members are supported to attend the annual Mandurah Silent March
- Support Peel Schools Say No to Violence school bag kits
- Partner with Peel Says No to Violence to raise community awareness, sharing opportunities to cross promote resources
- Deliver a training suite to staff on Domestic and Family Violence

There are many more ways Local Governments, which have resources, can actively be involved with addressing family and domestic violence. More suggestions are available in the national ‘[Prevention Toolkit for Local Government](#).’

WALGA’s role to support WA Local Governments to address family and domestic violence

Local Governments were asked what should be the priority action for WALGA to support WA Local Governments to address family and domestic violence. The majority of Local Government survey respondents (39%) supported the action for ‘WALGA to have stronger advocacy to the State Government on behalf of Local Governments’. It should be noted that in order for WALGA to take a stronger advocacy approach on behalf of Local Governments, the existing and outdated 2011 WALGA State Council endorsed position will need to be revised. A policy position or stronger advocacy commitment from WALGA will require WALGA State Council endorsement at a future WALGA State Council meeting. The survey responses are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. The Role of WALGA to Support WA Local Governments

| Action | Response |
|--|----------|
| Stronger advocacy to State Government on behalf of Local Governments | 10 (39%) |
| All suggested actions – advocacy, resources, policy positions, event and working group | 4 (15%) |
| Local Government resources | 4 (15%) |
| Development of a WALGA policy position | 3 (11%) |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Local Government working group/ network | 2 (8%) |
| Local Government event to stimulate discussions | 1 (4%) |
| WALGA does not have a role | 1 (4%) |
| No response | 1 (4%) |

What the State Government should do to support Local Governments to address family and domestic violence

Primarily Local Government respondents identified the following as being key actions that WALGA can advocate to the State Government on:

- Roles and responsibilities – The State Government should define and communicate their role and responsibilities and outline the expectations of Local Governments.
- Funding – The State Government should ensure there is adequate funding for programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
- Resources - If the State Government articulates that Local Government has a role to address family and domestic violence, then appropriate resources are required (e.g. funding, tools etc). The State Government should also assist with broader rollout of the Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Toolkit.
- Advocacy – The State Government should advocate to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.

WA Local Government Employee Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements

The following analysis of WA Local Government employee family and domestic violence leave entitlements covers the request from the East Metropolitan Zone for WALGA to include in this discussion paper how Local Governments can collectively work towards reducing family and domestic violence for employees of Local Government in Western Australia. This information is provided by WALGA’s Employee Relations business unit.

In Western Australia 87% of Local Governments operate in the Federal industrial relations system. In the Federal system, the National Employment Standards (NES) provides the entitlement to employees (including part-time and casual employees) of five days of unpaid family and domestic violence leave each year. The Local Government Industry Award 2020 (LGIA) provides the same entitlement as set out in the NES. The entitlement enables employees to deal with the impact of family and domestic violence where it is impractical to do so outside their ordinary hours of work. This includes but is not limited to making arrangements for their safety, or safety of a close relative (including relocation), attending court hearings or accessing police services. There are Local Governments who do offer a greater entitlement than what is provided for in the NES and LGIA to family and domestic violence leave in their enterprise agreements and/or by way of policy.

The remaining 13% of Local Governments operate in the State system. Currently there is no minimum entitlement to family and domestic violence leave in the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 2003 or the state awards applicable to Local Government. The names of the state awards are the Local Government Officers' (Western Australia) Interim Award 2011 and Municipal Employees (Western Australia) Interim Award 2011. There are eight Local Governments who have State Industrial Agreements (IAs) registered with the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission. Three of the eight Local Governments have family and domestic violence provisions. As there is no minimum provision for this entitlement in the State industrial relations system, the provisions in these agreements vary greatly in terms of the amount of leave available and whether or not it is paid.

The WA Parliament is currently progressing the [Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](#) (Bill). This Bill proposes amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1979*, the *Long Service Leave Act 1958* and the *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*. One of the key reforms in the Bill is to enable Local Governments to be declared "not to be national system employers" for the purposes of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, and will result in the transition of Local Governments currently in the Federal industrial relations system to the State industrial relations system.

This Bill is not favourable as the Federal system has minimum conditions of employment (NES) which are incorporated into federal awards and enterprise agreements, including provisions for the entitlement to unpaid domestic violence leave, while the State industrial relations system does not have these same provisions. It is extremely concerning that the State Government's Bill will transition Local Governments to the State industrial relations system without taking the opportunity to enhance the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 to include provisions for family and domestic leave, as in the case of the Federal NES.

WALGA opposes the Bill but acknowledges that if the State Government is successful in getting the declaration endorsed by the Federal Minister of Industrial Relations, 87% of Local Government will need to transition to the State IR system. WA Local Governments currently operate in both the Federal and State industrial relations systems, however there will likely be an upcoming transition of Local Governments to the State system once WA Parliament has passed the Bill.

In the absence of there being no legislative minimum condition of employment addressing family and domestic violence leave in the State system, WALGA encourages Local Governments to follow best practice. The domestic violence provisions set out in subdivision CA-Unpaid family and domestic violence leave of the Fair Work Act 2009 serve as a basis for Local Governments to develop provisions to be included in industrial instruments and / or internal policies.

The details of Local Government's leave entitlements are captured in WALGA's annual Salary and Workforce Survey. In the 2019-20 WALGA Salary and Workforce Survey there were 50 of the 138 Local Governments (excluding City of Nedlands which were not a

member at the time) who completed the survey (36% response rate). The following has been noted:

- In addition to the NES / LGIA family and domestic violence leave entitlement 40.4% of Local Governments gave employees access to their paid personal/carer's leave entitlements (PCL). 46.2% of Local Governments provided additional paid or unpaid leave, at the discretion of the CEO.
- In this survey 28.8% of Local Governments offered paid family and domestic violence leave, in addition to the NES entitlement. The most common provisions were 3, 5 or 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave.
- The 15 Local Governments in the survey that had paid family and domestic violence leave, offered up to 3, 5 or 10 days per year.

In comparison all Victorian Local Governments are on the Federal industrial relations system which means all Local Governments meet the minimum requirements for family and domestic violence leave. As captured in MAV's 2019 survey, the majority of Victorian Local Governments provide 11-20 days leave with around 67% reporting an internal staff policy which captures family and domestic violence measures for their employees.

9. WA Peak Organisation: Women's Council of Domestic and Family Violence Services WA

The [Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services WA \(Women's Council\)](#) is a state-wide peak organisation committed to improving the status of women and children in society. The role is to provide a voice on family and domestic violence issues that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced family and domestic violence. The Women's Council aims to increase the community awareness of the incidence, effects and responses to family and domestic violence as well as collaborate with key stakeholders in the development of policies, legislation and programs.

The Women's Council continues to run annual awareness raising campaigns including the Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March and 2020 will be the 30th anniversary of the March which commemorates all those killed in family and domestic violence homicides each year. In 2019 the Women's Council undertook the rubbish bin campaign where they have sold over 2,000 vinyl bin stickers to the local community with the wording "Domestic and Family Violence – Not in my home, not in my street – Not now, not ever." The City of Belmont partnered with the Women's Council to utilise the poster design to develop a metal version for distribution.

It is encouraged that Local Governments with the capacity, form collaborative partnerships with the Women's Council to deliver primary prevention strategies.

10. Conclusion

There is a growing interest from WA Local Governments to address family and domestic violence and this is particularly evident by the requests received from the South West Country Zone and the East Metropolitan Zone for WALGA. Traditionally WA Local Governments have not had defined roles and currently are not legally obligated to implement any initiatives, however those Local Governments with the capacity are progressively implementing primary prevention actions together with key partners in their local communities.

The Commonwealth Government recognises the role of Local Governments in the primary prevention of family and domestic violence in the National Plan. The Commonwealth Government also led the development of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government along with input from the Local Government Associations including WALGA. The Australian Local Government is advocating to the Commonwealth Government for more support and funding to assist Local Governments across Australia, particularly towards the implementation of the toolkit.

Through comparative analysis it is clear that the Victorian State Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria are leaders in the family and domestic violence area. The Queensland State Government has also recognised the role of Local Governments by providing partial funding towards a position in the Local Government Association of Queensland. The Associations in New South Wales and South Australia have also developed policy statements to guide advocacy efforts.

By comparison the WA State Government released the final State Strategy to address family and domestic violence in July 2020 without consultation on the draft strategy that typically has occurred with other State strategies. WALGA was also not initially invited to represent WA Local Governments on the working group that developed the State Strategy. Despite this lack of engagement, Local Government was identified as a stakeholder in the State Strategy.

As there is limited direction from the WA State Government through the absence of legislative requirements for Local Governments as well as no designated funding for Local Governments or a funded officer position within WALGA to focus on this issue, WALGA's main role is therefore to advocate rather than administer a specific program or network. The survey conducted by WALGA, although limited, supports the position that WALGA should strengthen advocacy efforts and this will include updating the 2011 WALGA State Council endorsed policy statement.

WA Local Government staff entitlements for family and domestic violence are variable, due to the majority of Local Governments operating in the Federal industrial relations system and the rest operating in the State industrial relations system. The Federal system provides a minimum entitlement for family and domestic violence leave to employees however there is

no such minimum entitlement in the State system. WA Parliament is currently progressing the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 and this will result in Local Governments all moving onto the State industrial relations system. In the absence of there being no legislative minimum condition of employment addressing family and domestic violence leave in the State system, WALGA encourages Local Governments to follow best practice.

11. Recommendations

To update the existing outdated 2011 WALGA policy position, the discussion paper proposes adopting the following recommendations:

1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments which have capacity can voluntarily play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.
2. That WALGA advocates to the State Government:
 - a. to define and communicate the role, responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence.
 - b. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas.
 - c. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy.
 - d. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
 - e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.
3. That WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.

In August 2020 this paper was provided to the South West Country Zone and the East Metropolitan Zone for consideration. The South West Country Zone endorsed the recommendations. The East Metropolitan Zone also endorsed the recommendations with an amendment to the first recommendation, removing the acknowledgment that Local Governments can 'voluntarily' address family and domestic violence if they have the 'capacity' to do so. The first recommendation was amended to:

1. That WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community.

In September 2020 the supported recommendations from both the South West Country Zone and the East Metropolitan Zone were then reviewed by WALGA State Council's People and Place Policy Team. The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the progression of this issue with the intent to update WALGA's outdated 2011 policy position at a future WALGA State Council meeting.

12. Appendix 1 – Other State Government Responses

South Australia

In 2014, the Premier released '[Taking a Stand: Responding to Domestic Violence](#)'. This recognised the importance of a whole-of-government response to the findings of the State Coroner in the inquest into the tragic death of Zahra Abrahamzadeh. In 2015 the South Australian Government launched the 'Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence in South Australia'. The Committee found that increased efforts are required in the primary prevention space and strategic and targeted services are required for vulnerable groups. In 2016 the finalised report from the inquiry was tabled in South Australian State Parliament with 35 recommendations.

The South Australian Government has since adopted the '[Committed to Safety: A framework for addressing domestic, family and sexual violence in South Australia](#).' This framework follows the nationally accepted framework which positions primary prevention as the predominant action to address family and domestic violence. A number of initiatives have been rolled out, including the establishment of safety 'hubs'.

In November 2019 South Australia's [Equal Opportunity Commission led a Workplace Equality and Respect](#) Project which aimed to change the workplace culture of 24 State Government agencies involving work than 100,000 employees. The project encouraged State Government agencies to develop action plans to strengthen workplace gender equality, increase staff awareness and offer support available for people experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.

In April 2020 the South Australian Government [announced an additional \\$2.4 million](#) towards new, dedicated 24/7 men's domestic violence hotline and support services in a bid to help stem violent behaviours during COVID-19.

In June 2020 the South Australian Government announced \$600,000 of new funding to [launch a six week 'Break the Cycle' campaign](#) across metropolitan and regional television, radio, digital and social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok. A [new website](#) has also been launched, which will act as a one-stopshop for all domestic violence information in SA. The campaign's central tagline is: If you feel the need to break something, break the cycle of domestic abuse.

In June 2020 the South Australian Government also [announced \\$600,000 in new funding](#), with \$500,000 going towards the continuation of the domestic violence disclosure scheme for another 12 months as well as \$100,000 to continue a life-saving phone app which links at-risk women to police and DV services.

New South Wales

In New South Wales the State Government is guided by the '[NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform 2016-2021: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children](#)'. The Blueprint sets out the directions and actions to reform the domestic violence system in NSW. In 2016-17, the NSW Government invested more than \$300 million over four years to the domestic and family violence response. In the 2019-20 budget a further \$431 million over four years was announced.

As part of the Blueprint recommendations the [NSW Domestic and Family Violence Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy 2017-2021](#) ('the Strategy') was released by the State Government. This Strategy guides NSW Government agencies, non-government organisations and communities to design and implement prevention and early intervention strategies³⁵.

On 10 May 2019 the NSW State Government announced it was becoming a member of Our Watch, which was recommended over a period of time by various survivors, advocates and bodies³⁶. Before this, NSW was the only jurisdiction that was not a member³⁷.

In May 2020 the NSW Government [announced an additional \\$12.8 million](#), on top of the \$8.2 million allocated from the Commonwealth Government, for frontline family and domestic violence services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In August 2020 the NSW Government [announced](#) the COVID-19 Sexual, Domestic and Family Violence Grant program, funded through the allocation of \$9 million from the Commonwealth Government.

In September 2020 the NSW Government [announced an accredited course](#) through TAFE NSW targeted towards community and religious leaders. The training is designed to empower community and religious leaders to appropriately respond to family and domestic violence.

Queensland

In September 2014 the Queensland State Government established the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, chaired by the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO, former Governor-General of Australia. The purpose of the taskforce was to examine and make recommendations on how the family and domestic violence system could be improved to ensure the prevention of future incidences. The final report titled '[Not Now, Not](#)

³⁶ Domestic Violence NSW (2019). Time to Change the Story to prevent domestic and family violence in NSW. https://www.dvnsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/DVNSW-Our-Watch-MR-10-May-2019_.pdf

³⁷ ABC News (2019). Advocates call for NSW leaders to 'step up' on family violence and join Our Watch. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-28/nsw-government-family-violence-our-watch/10853438>

[Ever: Putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland](#)’ was provided to the Queensland State Government on 28 February 2015 and made 140 recommendations. The Queensland State Government accepted all 121 government-related recommendations and supported the other 19 non-government recommendations.

Following the taskforce report, the Queensland State Government developed the [10-year Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016–26](#) to guide the implementation of these recommendations, with a strong vision for a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. By September 2019, the Queensland State Government had addressed all of the recommendations and invested more than \$328.9 million since 2015-16.

In April 2020 the Queensland State Government [announced \\$5.5 million](#) to support family and domestic violence support initiatives. The \$5.5 million funding included:

- \$1.5 million – to boost capacity of the 24/7 statewide crisis service DVConnect, including Womensline and Mensline and enabling online support.
- \$1.7 million to address crisis accommodation needs, including transiting women to alternative accommodation to free up capacity in shelters.
- \$1.8 million to enhance specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services to meet anticipated demand.
- \$500,000 to support a new awareness campaign.

In May 2020 the Queensland State Government [announced a further \\$2 million](#) for family and domestic violence. The funding announcement was made following the ‘Domestic and Family Violence Virtual Summit’ which explored options to continue to support people experiencing domestic and family violence and deliver essential services within the new reality COVID-19. Following the Summit the Queensland State Government released a Get Involved survey on domestic and family violence to determine the impacts of COVID-19.

A [news article](#) published by ABC News on 26 June 2020 reported that they had spoken to domestic violence survivors, families of victims, legal services, advocates and academics who said they there were still gaps in the system, even after the implementation of the State Government’s 140 recommendations.

In July 2020 it was [announced](#) that the Queensland State Government has partnered with software developers and Telstra to build an app known as ‘Bystander’. The aim of the Bystander app would show how to spot the signs of an unhealthy relationship of a loved one and give advice on intervening in a safe, proactive way.

In July 2020 the Queensland State Government [launched a new social media campaign](#) to connect families struggling with addiction, family violence or housing crisis to the right services to unite and recover from COVID-19.

Tasmania

The Tasmanian State Government released the 'Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022' with a funding commitment of \$26 million over three years. The plan outlines a vision for the State where all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected and our homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence.

As part of the \$1 billion Social and Economic Support package for COVID-19, the Tasmanian State Government [allocated \\$2.7 million](#) to respond to family and sexual violence. In June 2020 the Tasmanian State Government launched the '[Safe from Violence](#)' [website](#), Tasmania's central point of information for family and sexual violence. The website provides clear and targeted information, online resources and links about family and sexual violence for a range of people including victim-survivors, perpetrators, family and friends of victim-survivors and perpetrators, service providers and the community.

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory released the [Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028](#); ten year strategy to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence. Action Plan 1: Changing Attitudes, Intervening Earlier and Responding Better (2018-2021) focuses on the first phase of implementation and describes how government will implement actions from the 10 year framework. In February 2019 the Northern Territory State Government announced it would [invest \\$22 million over three years](#) to implement actions in the 10-year Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028. This is in addition to the \$25 million annual budget for domestic, family and sexual violence services.

In June 2020 the Northern Territory State Government passed the [Justice Legislation Amendment \(Domestic and Family Violence\) Bill 2019](#). The Bill aims to improve responses to domestic and family violence so that victims are safer and defendants are more accountable. Amendments will help ensure more offenders undertake rehabilitation programs; create a new offence of choking, suffocation and strangulation in a domestic relationship; and enable termination of a tenancy agreement under a domestic violence order. Additionally in June 2020 the [Sexual Offences \(Evidence and Procedure\) Amendment Bill 2019](#) was also passed in the Northern Territory to give survivors the right to speak out under their own names about their experiences at the culmination of criminal court proceedings.

13. Appendix 2 - Other Local Government Association Responses

Local Government Association of South Australia

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) acknowledges that although the role of Local Government is not legislatively required, working in partnership with the State Government, Police and not for profits is required to address the issue. Local Governments in South Australia are undertaking advocacy, providing sources of information and referrals, promoting gender equality, and reviewing their internal staff policies and procedures.

The LGASA has a policy position endorsed in 2018 which states:

Local government commits to being part of the solution in the prevention of violence against women in South Australia. As the level of government closest to our communities, we recognise the damaging impact domestic and family violence has on individuals and our communities. Recognising local government's role to create and maintain healthy, vibrant, inclusive and safe communities, councils in South Australia will seek opportunities to work in partnership with each other and collaborate with specialist non-government organisations and agencies from other levels of government to raise awareness, facilitate, advocate and provide information to support victims of domestic violence. Councils in South Australia will demonstrate leadership by supporting employees through training and HR arrangements where appropriate.

The LGASA developed fact sheets to assist Local Governments with addressing family and domestic violence; a fact sheet which Local Governments can use to promote to the community the assistance available to victims and a fact sheet for Local Government staff so that they can appropriately assist victims. The LGASA was also on the working group that guided the developed of the Commonwealth Government's draft Prevention Toolkit Local Government.

The LGASA has provided a submission to the Commonwealth's Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence. Some of the key recommendations include:

- That the Commonwealth Government encourages state and territory governments to support local government's role and capacity to progress primary prevention work through appropriately resourcing all councils to build the organisational capability and capacity to facilitate community-based local responses, utilising Our Watch's Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.
- That the Commonwealth Government provide fixed-term funding for a minimum of five years, for a domestic and family violence policy officer in every state and territory local government association. State and territory governments could supplement funding to meet specific jurisdictional objectives and priorities.

- That the Commonwealth Government supports local government’s role and capability to progress gender equity and influence attitudinal change through resourcing the local government sector or peak agencies to coordinate and inform sector efforts by way of grant funding.

Local Government NSW

Responding to and preventing family and domestic violence is a priority for Local Governments across New South Wales and also for Local Government NSW (LGNSW).

LGNSW has adopted a policy statement on family and domestic violence in their [Policy Platform](#) manual which states that LGNSW will advocate for:

“14.9 - the NSW Government to amend the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* to include economic abuse and amend existing legislation relating to apprehended violence orders to recognise dowry abuse”.

For at least the last three annual conferences LGNSW have received motions from Local Governments seeking action on or support for initiatives to address family and domestic violence. At LGNSW’s 2017 Annual Conference delegates attended a presentation by the CEO of Our Watch on the national framework for preventing violence against families and women. Furthermore, LGNSW is also a member of the NSW Collaboration on Primary Prevention of Gender-Based Violence which includes over twenty non-government peak bodies, Local Governments and organisations seeking to promote primary prevention of sexual, domestic and family violence. LGNSW was also on the working group that guided the developed of the Commonwealth Government’s draft Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.

Following the passage of a motion at the 2019 LGNSW Annual Conference that endorsed 10 days leave for local government employees dealing with domestic violence, the New South Wales Local Government, Clerical, Administrative, Energy, Airlines & Utilities Union (the “USU”) filed an application on 13 February 2020 to vary the Award. The Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales [varied the Local Government \(State\) Award 2017](#), which took effect on 24 February 2020, to provide an entitlement of up to 10 days paid leave to employees who require flexibility to deal with the impacts of family and domestic violence.

LGNSW has a ‘Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network’ which is broad in topic scope but does discuss domestic violence. LGNSW also have the ‘NSW Collaboration on the Primary Prevention of Gender Based Violence’ which is a community of practice including peak bodies, services organisations, and some larger Local Governments that are involved in domestic violence prevention.

In October 2020 LGNSW and Domestic Violence NSW released a training course for Local Government Elected Members and staff. The course is based on Change the Story:

Australia's national framework to prevent violence against women and their children, which is informed by Australian and international research. The training is being delivered [online](#).

Although LGNSW doesn't have a specific webpage on domestic violence, they regularly share resources via the LG Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network, and in the LG Weekly Newsletter.

Local Government Association of Queensland

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) supports Our Watch and was also on the working group that guided the developed of the Commonwealth Government's draft Prevention Toolkit for Local Government.

In December 2019 the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women, Di Farmer, [announced that the State Government of Queensland](#) was providing \$75,000 in a cost sharing arrangement with the LGAQ to fund a dedicated domestic and family violence prevention project officer for one year. The position is funded full time, with two thirds funding provided by the State Government. The position aligns with an action in the third action plan of the Queensland State's Strategy to partner with other sectors, including the Local Government sector, to take action both within their organisations and in the community. The designated officer has surveyed Local Governments to determine the level of interest with family and domestic violence initiatives, as well as the development Local Government resources – website, newsletter, and training. The officer is also establishing partnerships and connections for collaborative efforts.

In 2020 LGAQ [launched a social media campaign using the hashtag “#changetheending”](#) to mark Domestic and Family Violence awareness month. LGAQ also started to work with [Red Rose Foundation Australia](#), to install a red bench outside LG House to help raise awareness about the factors surrounding domestic and family violence deaths including homicide, suicide and accidental deaths. The Red Rose Foundation launched the Red Bench Project to build a permanent reminder that domestic violence occurs within all of our communities. The presence of a Red Bench in a public location aims to raise public awareness and provide an opportunity for this important issue to remain visible. The Red Rose Foundation have a goal to have one Red Bench in every local government area in Queensland.

In September 2020 the Queensland State Government [announced the inaugural Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Honour Roll](#), which recognised LGAQ's appointed domestic and family violence officer.

Local Government Association of Tasmania and Local Government Association of Northern Territory

The Associations themselves do not have a large focus on family and domestic violence. The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory however provided examples of where regional Local Governments in the Northern Territory are pivotal in protection and

keeping vulnerable community members safe. For example, West Arnhem Regional Council has a community safety team which provides safety initiatives to several communities, such as safe houses (Gunbalanya Women's Safe House) and night patrols (Gunbalanya, Minjilang and Warruwi Night Patrol services). Culturally relevant programs are essential in the delivery of such services. It is important to connect and maintain important relationships with community leaders and stakeholders to work together to enhance community safety.

14. Appendix 3 - Local Government Participation in WALGA's Family and Domestic Violence Survey

1. City of Albany
2. City of Armadale
3. Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
4. City of Bayswater
5. Shire of Boyup Brook
6. Shire of Broome
7. City of Canning
8. Shire of Coorow
9. Shire of East Pilbara
10. Shire of Exmouth
11. City of Gosnells
12. City of Greater-Geraldton
13. City of Joondalup
14. Shire of Nannup
15. City of Mandurah
16. Shire of Mingenew
17. Shire of Mundaring
18. City of Perth
19. Shire of Plantagenet
20. Town of Port Hedland
21. City of South Perth
22. City of Stirling
23. City of Subiaco
24. City of Swan
25. City of Vincent
26. City of Wanneroo